

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in substantially the same order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, and 31 are currently amended to more clearly define pre-existing claim limitations. No claims are canceled. No claims are added. No new matter has been added.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 9-10, 15-16, 25-26, and 31-32 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 1-2, 4, 17-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,078,402 to Fischer et al. (hereinafter "Fischer") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,880,033 to Mahmoud et al. (hereinafter "Mahmoud").

Claims 3, 5-8, 11-14, 19, 21-24, and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer and Mahmoud in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,623,697 to Bland et al. (hereinafter "Bland").

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 4, 17-18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer in view of Shariff. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections because the combination of cited references fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claims.

CLAIMS 1-8, and 11-14

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by Fischer. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference

because Fischer does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim. Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A method, comprising:

scanning an address space to locate a structure, wherein scanning the address space to locate the structure comprises scanning an identification register of the structure whose value matches a predetermined value, wherein the value of the identification register identifies a starting address location of the structure within the address space, wherein scanning the address space comprises:

reading a first capabilities pointer located inside the device, wherein the first capabilities pointer points to a first identification register having a first identification value; and

reading a second capabilities pointer if the first identification value of the first identification register does not match the predetermined value;

determining the starting address location of the structure; and

accessing a register located within the structure by adding a predetermined offset to the starting address location of the structure.

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, requires reading a second capabilities pointer if the first identification value of the first identification register does not match the predetermined value. The combination of the cited references fails to disclose at least this limitation of the claim.

As described in Applicant's previous response, Fischer is directed to a host (e.g., printer) that locates shareable resources on an accessory (e.g., I/O card) by using an offset mechanism on the accessory. Fischer, Abstract. Fischer discloses that firmware of the host (e.g., printer) is used to map the configuration address space of the peripheral (e.g., I/O card) to appear in the memory addressable area of the host, and the peripheral resources (e.g., Card Based Resources) to another area of the memory addressable area of the host. The peripheral resources are mapped to the memory of the host starting at the base address. See col. 4, lines 24-29. The mapping of the configuration address space and the resources of the peripheral allows the processor to virtually address them for reading, writing, and managing information to and from certain shared resources in the configuration address space and the resources of the peripheral. See col. 4, lines 29-36. Fischer, however, does not disclose reading a second capabilities pointer if the first identification value does not match the predetermined value, as required by claim 1.

Mahmoud is directed to a method for configuring channels of a dual channel SCSI chip. Mahmoud, Abstract. The method includes setting at least one bit in a first configuration space within a first channel control in the dual channel SCSI chip where the first configuration space returns a device identification information when accessed by an operating system. Mahmoud, Abstract. Mahmoud, however, does not disclose reading a second capabilities pointer if the first identification value does not match the predetermined value, as required by claim 1.

For the reasons stated above, the combination of cited references fails to disclose all of the limitations of claim 1. Given that the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Given that claims 2-8, and 11-14 depend from independent claim 1, which is patentable over the cited reference, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-8, and 11-14 are also patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and the rejection of claims 3, 5-8, and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CLAIMS 17-24, and 27-30

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischer. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is patentable over the cited reference for reasons similar to those presented above with respect to claim 1.

Given that claims 18-24 and 27-30 depend from independent claim 17, which is patentable over the cited references, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 18-24 and 27-30 are also patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and the rejection of claims 19, 21-24, and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Michael Mallie at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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